

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-5, 13, 14, 17, 20-21, 28-30, 41-42 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Connor.

Claims 2-3, 6-8, 18-19, 22-23, 31-32 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Connor.

Claims 1, 4-7, 13, 17, 20-22, 28, 30, 35, 41 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al).

Claims 8-9, 23-24 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al).

Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01128 (Ruschak et al) in view of Bermel et al.

Claims 10-11, 25-26 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01128 (Ruschak et al) in view of Yapel et al (6,117,237).

Claims 1-29 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17 and 45 are confusing owing to a typographical error. It is suggested that applicant at line 5 of claim 17 and 45 delete "multiplayer" and insert --multilayer--.

Claims 12, 15-16, 40, 43, 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112 set forth in the Office action and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 17, 30, and 45 herewith are amended. Claims 4, 20, and 33 have been canceled.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons.

The present invention, as now amended, is directed to a system and method for preventing gas currents from impacting a coating process for a multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus, that includes a multi-slot slide bead coating

apparatus for forming a multilayer composite with a carrier layer and a slide surface. The carrier layer has a viscosity < 1 cp and a wet thickness < 5 microns. A coating web for use with the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus is included, as is a nonforaminous proximity shield. The nonforaminous proximity shield is positioned substantially parallel to the slide surface while being in close proximity to both the web and the slide surface of the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus such that gas currents do not disturb the multilayer composite on the slide surface.

Independent claims 1, 17, 30, and 45 have been amended to emphasize the feature of positioning a nonforaminous proximity shield substantially parallel to the slide surface while being in close proximity to both the web and the slide surface of the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus such that gas currents do not disturb the multilayer composite on the slide surface, and to include the viscosity range of the carrier layer. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification on page 5, lines 9-22.

The 112 Rejections

With regard to claims 1-29 and 45, the Examiner states that the claims are indefinite without supplying a reason for the rejection. In fact, the same claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as reading upon the cited art, so they could not simultaneously be indefinite, because the Examiner seemed clearly to understand the claimed subject matter in light of the cited art. It is believed, therefore, that claims 1-29 and 45 do in fact meet the requirements of 35 USC 112.

The 102 Rejections

The prior art of O'Connor discloses a foraminous enclosure that is placed about 5 to 60 centimeters from the coating composition. O'Connor dispels the use of a non-foraminous shield. Moreover, the Applicant's proximity shield is positioned within millimeters of the coating web. O'Connor does not show a non-foraminous shield positioned substantially parallel to the slide surface while being in close proximity to both the web and the slide surface of the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus, as the Applicant now claims. Likewise, there is no disclosure in Ruschak of a nonforaminous shield positioned within millimeters of

the coating web. The claims are novel because at least one of the Applicant's features is missing in the cited art.

The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

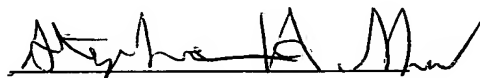
The 103 Rejections

The statements above on what the cited art of O'Connor and Ruschak does not show apply equally here as well. The Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case, because at least one of Applicant's features is missing in the cited combination. Furthermore, O'Connor in column 4, line 57 and elsewhere specifically teaches away from using a nonforaminous shield.

It is believed that independent claims 1, 17, 30, and 45 are unobvious in light of the the cited art. The remaining claims are dependent from these claims and are considered to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.